

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:LMACFARLANE

APPROVED BY S/S:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 220718 TOSEC 260120

FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 2667 ACTION SECSTATE THE HAGUE

TEL AVIV ATHENS DAMASCUS BEIRUT 5 SEP 76

QUOTE

UNCLAS NICOSIA 2667

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS CY

SUBJECT: HI-JACKING OF KLM AIRCRAFT BY PALESTINE TERRORISTS

1. FOLLOWING SITUATION REPORT BASED FBIS REPORTING AS OF 1500Z. OTHER PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FBIS INFO ON HIJACKING OF KLM AIRCRAFT NOT INCLUDED HEREIN, BUT CAN PROVIDE SUBSTANCE IF DESIRED.

2. KLM AIRCRAFT RETURNED LARNACA AIRPORT APPROXIMATELY 1500 HOURS AND ULTIMATUM WAS EXTENDED FOR ANOTHER TWO HOURS. PLANE PARKED AT END OF MAIN RUNWAY. ACCORDING TO BBC, PASSENGERS INCLUDE 48 DUTCH CITIZENS, 2 AMERICANS, 13 SPANIARDS, 2 INDONESIANS, 5 FRENCH, 2 FINNS, 1 BELGIAN AND 1 GERMAN. TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS ESTABLISHED HEADED BY DUTCH AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS HERMAN C. JORISSEN. PLO REPORTEDLY INITIALLY REFUSED TO JOIN NEGOTIATING TEAM. MORE RECENT BROADCASTS INDICATE THAT PLO REP, USING CODE NAME "ZACHARIA", AND SECOND SECRETARY FROM LIBYAN EMBASSY (NAME NOT GIVEN, BUT ACCORDING LATEST DIPLOMATIC LISTINGS ONLY SECOND SECRETARY IS MOHAMED A. AKASHA) WERE ASKED TO

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GO TO CONTROL TOWER AT LARNACA TO PARTICIPATE IN NEGOTIA-

TIONS. PER ORDERS OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS, MINISTER FOR
COMMUNICATIONS TOMBAZOS DESIGNATED TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF
OF GOC.

3. AS OF APPROXIMATELY 1400Z, SECOND REFUELING OF PLANE
HAD NOT TAKEN PLACE. HIJACKERS INDICATED TO CONTROL TOWER
THAT THEY PLANNED RETURN TO ISRAELI AIRSPACE, WOULD FLY TO
ISRAEL, FLY OVER TEL AVIV ONE HOUR PENDING DECISION WHETHER
THEIR DEMANDS WILL BE MET.

4. 1600Z BBC BROADCAST ANNOUNCED HIJACKERS AGREED TO
SURRENDER THEMSELVES AND RELEASE ALL PASSENGERS AFTER
HAVING BEEN GIVEN ASSURANCES BY PRESIDENT MAKARIOS OF SAFE
CONDUCT TO PLACE OF THEIR CHOICE.

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